

REMARKS

In the Office Action of March 17, 2006, the Office rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 12-14, and 16-78 under the judicially created doctrine-type double patenting.

A Terminal Disclaimer in view of co-pending U.S. Application No. 10/089,056 may be submitted to obviate the rejection under obviousness-type double patenting.

Claims 12, 37, 44, 51, 58, 65 and 72 were rejected as indefinite.

The cancellation of the claims rejected by the Office as indefinite obviates the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Only Claims 1, 4, 9-10, 12-13, 16-19, 34-36, 38-39, 41-43, 45-46, 55-57, 59-60, 62-64, and 66-67 were rejected in view of prior art (i.e., Colucci – U.S. 5,634,951).

Previously pending independent Claim 20, and the claims dependent therefrom, were not previously rejected in view of any prior art. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of previously presented Claim 5 which was not rejected in view of any prior art. Each of the new independent claims contains the subject matter of claims not rejected in view of any prior art in the Office Action of March 17, 2006. Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request passage of the now-pending claims to Issue.

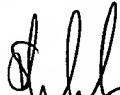
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants submit concurrently herewith an IDS. Applicants respectfully request the Office acknowledge consideration of the references provided thereon by returning a signed, dated and initialed copy of the form PTO-1449.

Applicants submit herewith a certified English translation of the priority document
(i.e., German Application No. 199 48 111.3 filed on October 6, 1999).

Respectfully submitted,

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